



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:  
1210-NV-052

January 9, 2006

Sara Hassert, Consultant  
Landrum & Brown, Inc.  
8755 W. Higgins Rd., Ste. 850  
Chicago, IL 60631

Dear Ms. Hassert:

Thank you providing the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the proposed modification to the Four Corner-post plan at McCarran International Airport for comment.

We believe that there are omissions in the EA, which if addressed, would provide a more complete evaluation of the proposal. Although Chapter 3 identifies the Muddy Mountains Wilderness as being affected by the proposed action, there is no description in Chapter 4 of the environmental consequences the proposal would have on the Wilderness. It appears there would be an affect to the Wilderness as numerous (according to the public meeting approximately 260 per day) airplanes would be routed over the Wilderness and would be climbing. A description of the noise level, duration of noise, other expected impacts, and mitigation measures (if any) are needed to understand the affect of the proposed action to the Wilderness.

A2-1

We cannot find any mention of how the proposal would affect the Muddy Mountains Wilderness in combination with frequent low level helicopter tours currently over flying the area. At present, there are longer periods when aircraft are not heard. How will this proposal increase aircraft noise and shorten the quiet periods? The general Cumulative Impacts statements only address anticipated reductions of aircraft noise around McCarran Airport. The cumulative affect at the Muddy Mountains Wilderness is not addressed.

A2-2

If you have any questions, please contact James Sippel, Wilderness Planner, at (702) 515-5131.

Sincerely,

Karla D. Norris  
Associate Field Manager,  
Recreation and Renewable